

FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

FEDERAL CIRCUIT RULE

Rule 48. Masters

- (a) **Appointment; Powers.** A court of appeals may appoint a special master to hold hearings, if necessary, and to recommend factual findings and disposition in matters ancillary to proceedings in the court. Unless the order referring a matter to a master specifies or limits the master's powers, those powers include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (1) regulating all aspects of a hearing;
 - (2) taking all appropriate action for the efficient performance of the master's duties under the order;
 - (3) requiring the production of evidence on all matters embraced in the reference; and
 - (4) administering oaths and examining witnesses and parties.
- (b) **Compensation.** If the master is not a judge or court employee, the court must determine the master's compensation and whether the cost is to be charged to any party.

(d) Procedure. Except as provided in this rule, the procedures applicable to an action for judicial review under 38 U.S.C. § 502 are the same as those for a petition for review under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 15.

Rule 49. Seal of the Court

The clerk is the keeper of the seal, which is the means of authentication of all records and certificates issued from this court.

Rule 50. Employee and Former Employee

No employee of the court may engage in the practice of law. No former employee of the court may participate or assist, by representation, consultation, or otherwise, in any case that was pending in the court during the period of employment. For purposes of this rule, a person serving at the court as an intern, whether in a judge's chambers or otherwise, is considered an employee of the court, whether such service is for pay, for law school credit, or voluntary.